

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Action Memorandum No. A-298

Date 9 October 1963

TO : Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT : Responsibility for Conduct of Special Operations

REFERENCE:

1. The attached Top Secret letter of 30 September from Secretary Gilpatric to Mr. McCone reports the reassignment of responsibilities from Lansdale's office to DIA and General Krulak's office.

2. In connection with the assignment to General Krulak's office, Secretary Gilpatric says, "General Krulak's office will assume responsibility for the Washington-level planning and direction of special operations and special activities in which DoD participates and which are not principally intelligence in character."

3. The foregoing quotation may be solely a simplified and somewhat naive summary of NSAM 57 and all of our subsequent discussions and negotiations on this point. On the other hand, it could be a very carefully worded statement of policy by DOD designed to downgrade the existing NSAM's and to put General Krulak's office in the position of monitoring CIA mounted operations. Certainly it appears to be a clear definition designed to limit CIA participation in special operations to those which would be "principally intelligence in character."

4. It seems to me that we must keep our guard up and it may perhaps be timely to introduce this entire problem to the Special Group again. In any event, please prepare a draft reply for the Director to sign to Gilpatric indicating that he has received the letter of 30 September, that he feels sure

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25X1 that the rearrangement of responsibilities within DOD will not in any way inhibit the close cooperation of the two agencies in these activities, and that: (a) [ ] he understands that this will be a small office at General Carroll's level to make the arrangements but not to become a part or a matter of record within the DIA covert operating elements, and (b) as regards General Krulak's office, the Agency will continue to operate under the provisions of NSAM 57, NSAM 162, and other current policies of the Special Group.

5. The foregoing language should be cleaned up, of course, and put into proper phraseology.

Marshall S. Carter  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Deputy Director

MSC:blp

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DDCI		TS# 188389
DOC. NO. Action Memo A-298		DATE DOCUMENT RECEIVED
DOC. DATE 9 Oct 1963		9 Oct 63
COPY NO. # 2		LOGGED BY
NUMBER OF PAGES 2		vbf
NUMBER OF ATTACHMENTS		
None (188382 t/w #1)		

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